

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04427 171747Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----180357Z 117490 /15
R 171331Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6772
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4427

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECEM, ECIN, IS, JO
SUBJECT: JORDAN POTASH PROJECT

REF: STATE 137357

1. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND THE DEAD SEA WORKS WOULD BE PLEASED TO COOPERATE WITH JORDAN IN DEAD SEA POTASH EXTRACTION. MFA OFFICIALS TOLD US LAST YEAR THAT THEY WERE VERY INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON PRINCE HASSAN'S REPORTED INTEREST IN A COOPERATIVE VENTURE. THEY DID NOT INDICATE WHAT THEY MIGHT ASK IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI KNOW-HOW. HOWEVER, FROM THOSE DISCUSSIONS AND THE RECENT MAQARIN DAM TALKS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THE ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO SEE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN WORKING WITH THE JORDANIANS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEW BEGIN GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO FAVOR SUCH A PROJECT.

2. BY COINCIDENCE, ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO WHEN EMBOFFS WERE VISITING THE DEAD SEA WORKS, COMPANY ONFICIALS VOLUNTEERED THAT COOPERATION WITH JORDAN WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE A MORE RATIONAL USE OF THE LOWER DEAD SEA OPERATION. THEY NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE FRESH WATER FROM JORDANIAN WADIS, WHICH NOW FLOWS INTO A SWAMPY AREA TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04427 171747Z

BREED MOSQUITOES, COULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE IN THE POTASH PRODUCTION PROCESS. IN SUM, THESE OFFICIALS GAVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME COOPERATION WITH THE JORDANIANS.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE DEAD SEA WORKS LTD. (POTASH, SALT AND MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE) IS A DIVISION

OF ISRAEL CHEMICAL, LTD., ISRAEL'S LARGE STATE

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OWNED CHEMICAL CONGLOMERATE. DR. SHEKARCHI, BUREAU OF
MINES, VISITED THE DEAD SEA WORKS IN APRIL AND CAN PRO-
VIDE ADDITIONAL FIRST-HAND INFORMATION IF DESIRED
(STATE 46368).
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POTASSIUM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV04427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770218-0241
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770643/aaaablvlp.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e374827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 137357
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2106502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDAN POTASH PROJECT
TAGS: ECEM, ECIN, IS, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e374827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009